

High School Students Must Buckle Up or Lose Parking Privileges

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RALEIGH-Just in time for the 2005-2006 school year, the Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP) is partnering with high schools across the state to encourage safety belt use among student drivers and passengers.

Nearly 19,000 students from 53 high schools in 16 counties will participate in "R U Buckled?" this year (see attached list). According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 63 percent of 16-to-20 year olds who were killed or seriously injured in 2003 traffic crashes nationally were not wearing their safety belts.

"The statistics should be reason enough for teens to buckle up," said Darrell Jernigan, director of the Governor's Highway Safety Program. "But since many teens still forget their safety belt, we're using this new initiative as a motivating factor."

All 53 schools partnering with the GHSP in this initiative will require drivers and passengers to buckle up before leaving the parking lot. Student drivers observed not wearing safety belts themselves or carrying unbuckled passengers risk losing on-campus parking privileges. Signs will be posted at school exits to remind students to buckle up. Student Resource Officers and other school officials will enforce the new regulations.

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See list below of participating high schools. For more information concerning this initiative and other programs sponsored by the Governor's Highway Safety Program, please contact Catherine McLaurin at 919-733-3083 or visit our Web site at www.ncdot.org/secretary/ghsp.

Alexander High School
East Burke High School
Freedom High School
West Caldwell High School
West Carteret High School
Croatan High School
Mountain Youth High School
Andrews High School
Murphy High School
Hiwassee Dam High School
Cherokee High School
Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy
West Forsyth High School
Reagan High School
Parkland High School
East Forsyth High School
Mount Tabor High School
Griffith High School
Reynolds High School
Glenn High School
North Forsyth High School
Carver High School
Carter Vocational

Career Center
Atkins High School
Weldon High School
McDowell High School
Laney High School
Ashley High School
Hoggard High School
New Hanover High School
Cedar Ridge High School
Orange High School
Pender High School
Heide Trask High School
Topsail High School
North Stanly High School
West Stanly High School
Albemarle High School
South Stanly High School
Northern Vance High School
Southern Vance High School
Western Vance High School
Career Education Center
West Wilkes High School
Wilkes Central high School
North Wilkes High School
East Wilkes High School
Fike High School
Hunt High School
Beddingfield High School
Forbush High School
Starmount High School